



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, November 4, 2015
Council Chambers, Town Hall
MINUTES

Members Present: Lisa Dahn, Susan Daley, Sarah Delia (staff), Maggie Ferron (staff), Jane Goldman, Sabrina Hosmer, Heather Lasky, Jennifer Scanlon, Pat Schneider (staff), Judy Stoughton, Lisa Young, and Kelly Zimmerman.

Regrets: Jordana Frost, Pat Michalak, Rachel Leclerc

Guests: Ellen Grant, Rose Kurcinik, Alex Marcellino, Erika Pereira

WHAT	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
CALL TO ORDER	Maggie Ferron called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of October 7, 2015.	<i>The October 7, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.</i>
STAFF REPORT	<p>Maggie Ferron suggested moving the guest speakers to 6:30pm. Changed by consensus.</p> <p>Staff Report: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Readiness Slot Allotment Policy: Educational Playcare has not yet opened, they are waiting for the state license. It is not certain if Mansfield can specify awarding SR funds to non-profit entities exclusively. There is a new Recreation Center called Questers Way opening in the Eastbrook Mall in March. This will be run by Ken Caputo who currently operates the martial arts training schools in Storrs and Windham. <p>Chair and Membership Recruitment: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee is working on Chair and Membership recruitment. <p>Playground Update: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Playground has been built! There were more than 130 volunteers. Food was donated by local businesses and the PTA/PTOs. Parks & Rec and Public Works worked very hard to get the site work finished. The Committee held a Ribbon Cutting/Opening Ceremony on October 31 at 10:00am. There are some hand tiles missing. Follow up on other build items such as more 	.

	<p>pickets and the possibility of more hand tiles.</p> <p>Communications Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more blog articles and bloggers • Can tap into the interest in Transportation and Mental Health Resources for Young Children. 	
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Holinko Estates Conversation Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A club for families will be held on Saturdays starting on November 7. There will be activities for kids and a place for parents to meet and converse. On November 7, the meeting will be at Holinko Estates, the following 3 meetings will be at the Community Center. • The Library is also creating programs for older kids in relation to ESL. This will tie in to Community Connectedness and the language barrier. <p>Bookmarks and Magnets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are ready to distribute. Centers are encouraged to take them for parents at their Centers. <p>OEC Strategic Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OEC is not ready to conduct these sessions in December. We will offer our February MAC meeting for this session. <p>Mental Health Resources for Young Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What resources re available? • What is the cost associated with these resources? • Nautchaug and Generations are willing to visit MAC and present information on this in January. • What are the issues in the younger crowd? • What should school nurses and Early Childhood Services know? • Pat Schneider mentioned that there is a shortage of child psychologists. • There is definitely a need for more resources. 	
GUEST SPEAKERS	<p>WRTD Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Grant, Executive Director • Rose Kurcinik, Transportation Coordinator • Alex Marcellino, Town Councilor and Mansfield representative to WRTD Board • The guests were introduced and the MAC members introduced themselves. • E. Grant spoke about the revising WRTD transportation schedules, which are non-standard. • She also spoke about obtaining a small circulator bus that would have more flexibility 	

	<p>getting into smaller roads and spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dial a Ride is available during the day for \$2.50. Families can use this services as well, need to reserve in advance. • Possibility of changing library parking lot to accommodate turn around for WRTD buses. • Don't lose sight of working parents who may need to access library on a Tuesday evening or a Saturday. • A feeder bus was previously approved by Mansfield, but Ms. Grant was not sure what happened to that funding or bus. • DOT will need to do an analysis of current service before whole system change can be implemented. WRTD can make changes up to 10% of schedule. • UConn shuttle is currently free to residents. • WRTD website is not yet interactive, will work on that after schedule change in January. • There are approximately 9,000 riders each month on WRTD buses. There are 15 Dial-a-Ride buses, 9 are in use each day for the region. • The Transportation hub in the Nash Zimmer Transportation Center could use more information services. 	<p><i>Maggie Ferron will write a letter from MAC supporting a change in the library parking lot.</i></p> <p><i>Maggie Ferron will write a letter from MAC to the DOT requesting transportation analysis of Mansfield.</i></p>
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.</p> <p>Next Executive Council Meeting, Thursday, November 19, 2015, 10:00am – 11:30am, Youth Services Office</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Council Chambers</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Sarah Delia, Assistant to the Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	

All Mansfield Children ages birth through 8 years old are healthy, successful learners, and their families are connected to the community.